



Continuing Education Needs of School Counselors

Filiz Gültekin, Ahu Arıcıoğlu

Uludag University Faculty of Education; Pamukkale University, Faculty of Education (Turkey)

gultekinfiliz@hotmail.com, ahuaricioglu@yahoo.com

In the information world, how to learn which information and use it influentially has been continuing to be a significant problem. The fast and intense rising of information requires individuals get it more rapidly, more yieldingly and continual/lifelong learning. As in other fields, to follow-up the innovations of his regarding field and improve his knowledge and skills related, is one of the professional responsibilities in the field of psychological counseling.

Continuing education has been significant for; maintenance of psychological counselors' professional competences, fullfil of ethics requirements, acquisition of a professional identity and preventing burnout. In the institutions they work, school counselor can face with the problem of working in the field which they do not have training, knowledge and skills about. In this context, the determination of school counselors' needs for continuing education will help the institutions of school counselors, professional organizations and Ministry of Education about training programs which will be organized.

In this study, working at different levels of education, school counselors' preference of topics they need continuing education, in which way and by which instituions/people to be given has been determined. Findings show that school counselors need education mostly in behavioural disorders, application of psychological tests, using the techniques of studying-game with children, choosing and using appropriate psychological counseling methods, group counseling methods, studying with aggression, violence and bully. In the study, relation of continuing education needs of school counselors with professional competence and its reflections to guidance services were discussed. Implications of the findings for meeting the needs of continuing education were presented.